

our American, constitutional, democratic form of government.

Specifically, we call on the President to respect and honor the following fundamental principles and norms of American democracy:

Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media: An independent and watchful mainstream media is, and always has been, an essential component of American democracy.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of the judiciary: The independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of our judiciary is, and from the founding of our Nation has been, a central pillar of our democratic system.

Truthfulness of public officials: Our democracy is built on trust and telling the people the truth about public matters; the maintenance of that trust and Americans' ability to make informed and rational public decisions require our leaders to provide honest, factual information to us all.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI: Nonpartisan independence, integrity and competence are critical to the fairness of our federal criminal justice system and intelligence agencies.

Civil discourse and fair treatment, including the respect for rights and the dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals, is an essential ingredient of American democracy.

The President's attacks on these core American democratic principles undermine the foundations of our Constitution and threaten the rule of law. Unless challenged and checked, this pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen.

Fortunately, a group of prominent conservative lawyers has recently spoken out on many of these same issues through a new organization, "Checks and Balances." Now, other members of the bar must no longer remain silent.

We call on the leaders of America's bar associations, law schools, law firms and fellow lawyers nationwide to speak out, on a non-partisan basis, against these attacks on the core of our democratic constitutional form of government. As lawyers, we have a responsibility to uphold "the rule of law" and prevent "the law of rulers." Wherever you live and work—in cities, towns, rural areas, suburbs—American democracy needs to hear your voice.

#### APPENDIX

We list below the five fundamental principles and values of American democracy highlighted in our Open Letter to the President. Under each principle, we describe patterns or examples of behavior by the President that we believe constitute serious violations of these principles. The examples are not intended to be comprehensive and may be added to in the future.

Principle: Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has labeled the mainstream news media that have earned our trust through decades of relentless, factual reporting as the "enemy of the American people!" and has repeatedly criticized reporting he dislikes as "Fake News."

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of judiciary.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has criticized "our Court System" as "broken and unfair" and has pilloried the judges and decisions of an entire Federal Circuit as "[a] terrible, costly and dangerous disgrace." He has publicly labeled a federal judge with whose decision he disagreed a "so-called judge". And he sought to undermine the public's confidence in the integrity of another federal judge—who had ruled that the President's immigration policy violated express statutory language—by calling him "an Obama judge."

Principle: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has said that there were "some very fine people on both sides" of the murderous Charlottesville white nationalists' demonstrations. He's approved the removal of thousands of children from their immigrant parents, for extended time periods, and has publicly insulted several respected African-American female journalists.

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has attacked the DOJ for indicting Republican Congressmen for serious financial crimes because the indictments would harm the chances for reelecting Republicans. He has attacked and removed former Attorney General Jeff Sessions for lack of personal loyalty, after having previously complained that: "I don't have an Attorney General."

He has accused the special counsel's deliberate, professional, lawful investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 election as the "rigged Mueller Witch Hunt!" And, he has rejected the U.S. intelligence community's consensus finding of Russian interference in that election, because Vladimir Putin, the autocratic Russian President, told the President that there was no interference.

Principle: Truthfulness of public officials.

Examples of Violations: [ . . . ] The Washington Post has documented more than 7,500 "false or misleading claims" by the President.

#### COMMENDING THE JUNIOR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Florida, these bills amend existing laws or create new legislation to better serve Floridians.

In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs. I want to especially recognize David Yankwitt. In addition to teaching American History and Civics

at Murray Middle School, he works as the coordinator for the Junior Youth In Government Program for Martin County. His work is inspiring a new generation of leaders to engage with our state in a civic-minded way.

I also want to recognize the 15 students who participated in this program at Murray Middle School and the 35 students who participated county-wide. As students continue in Junior Youth In Government, they can then move into Senior Youth In Government. South Fork, Martin County and Jensen Beach High Schools all have great student-led programs that could result in students receiving college credit and scholarships.

Madam Speaker, I hope these programs will continue to expand and give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM GRIFFIN ON HIS SUCCESS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HEB ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate City of Bedford Mayor Jim Griffin on his success as Chairman of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District Education Foundation's Board of Directors.

Through the guidance of its board of directors, the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District (HEB ISD) Education Foundation raises and awards private funds and community resources in support of the HEB ISD's commitment to serving its students and to educational excellence. Since its establishment in 1995, the Foundation has raised and awarded over \$855,000 in the form of grants to educators and programs within the HEB ISD.

In 2016, Jim Griffin assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Directors, leading the foundation into a new period of success and prosperity. Acting on his passions for education and service to his community, Mayor Griffin has worked rigorously and spent countless hours on school campuses, building essential relationships with educators throughout the area. Furthermore, his efforts to secure critical funding have enabled the Foundation to effectively meet the needs of a growing student population.

Mayor Griffin's tremendous impact is apparent in the extensive and continuous outreach that he conducts on behalf of the Foundation. Throughout his time as Chairman, he has maintained the highest level of corporate and community support for the Superintendent's annual Circle of Giving Campaign. He has also expanded the Campus Liaison Program to include multiple visits to all HEB ISD campuses each year. Additionally, Mayor Griffin's work to rebrand the HEB ISD staff campaign "ARE YOU IN? Inspire, Innovate, Invest", has resulted in over 100 percent growth of both donors and donations in 2018-2019. With over 770 staff donors and \$36,000 raised this past year, every dollar from this campaign is given directly to classrooms and campuses